

SESSION PIEDMONT PRESBY- TERY HELD LAST WEEK

Trial of Rev. D. W. Dodge Occupied Greater Part of Session—Convicted of Teaching Doctrines Not in Accord With Teachings of Church. Deposed from Ministerial Labors in Church.

The Piedmont Presbytery met in Walhalla last Tuesday night. The session was opened with a sermon by the retiring moderator, Rev. W. H. Mills, of Clemson College.

Officers elected were as follows: Prof. Hale Houston, Clemson College, moderator; Rev. W. H. Mills, Clemson College, stated clerk; C. T. Martin, Easley, temporary clerk.

Main Business of the Session.

The main business of the session was the hearing of the case of Rev. D. W. Dodge, of Anderson, under charge of teaching doctrines not in accord and at variance with the teachings of the Presbyterian church. Charges were brought against Rev. Dodge by Rev. Robert Adams, pastor of the church at Pendleton, charging him with holding and teaching views of Scriptures not conforming with the standards of the Presbyterian church. These charges were delivered in a communication to the moderator as follows:

"Presbytery of Piedmont, Walhalla, S. C.—Dear Brothers: It has come to my knowledge, from various sources, that Rev. D. Witherspoon Dodge has for some time past been holding and teaching views of God's decrees and the punishment of the wicked in conflict with the Scriptures, as interpreted within the standard of the church. I, therefore, deem it my duty as a member of this Presbytery to bring this matter before your attention and to ask that steps be taken for his prosecution, as prescribed in the Rules of Discipline, chapter 6, paragraph 3.

"I had hoped that Brother Dodge would relieve me from this duty by making a voluntary statement to the Presbytery, but he has informed me he will not do so.

"Fraternal yours,
"Robert Adams."

Minister Pleads Not Guilty.

Rev. Mr. Dodge plead "not guilty" to the indictment, and was placed on trial at 10:30 o'clock Wednesday by Piedmont Presbytery.

The first session, given over to the trial proper, was taken up with examination of witnesses for the prosecution, the following testifying: G. N. C. Boleman, Dr. R. E. Thompson, Dr. M. A. Thompson, W. S. Ramsey, of Anderson; W. C. Hughes, Walhalla; Rev. I. E. Wallace, Seneca; Rev. W. H. Frazer, Anderson.

At the conclusion of the session, the prosecution rested its case so far as the examination of witnesses was concerned, and at 2:30 o'clock the defendant began the presentation of his case. Rev. Robert Adams conducted the prosecution, the defendant conducting his own case.

The substance of the testimony was to the effect that the defendant had been heard to present the view and teach the doctrine of probation, or that there is no eternal condemnation of man at death, but that after each sin had received its just punishment and the sinner had become reconciled to God, he would have an opportunity to be saved.

Dr. Frazer testified that the defendant had confessed to him that he held views at variance with the Confession of Faith, particularly with reference to the doctrine of election and probation after death. To the same effect also was the testimony given by the others who had heard him preach.

Those who testified were questioned direct by Dr. Adams, while Rev. Dodge conducted his own cross-examination, frequently injecting into the questioning a full measure of sarcasm.

Mr. Dodge Addressed Presbytery at the close of the hearing of his case (Thursday night), explaining his plea of "not guilty," which had heretofore carried with it a degree of mystery. Opening his remarks, (which we cannot reproduce here in full), he said:

"I am here to represent the God of the great Universe—not merely the God of the Presbyterian Church of the South. My prosecutor tells you that he represents 350,000 persons in the Presbyterian Church of the South, and that he trembles at the thought of the weight of the responsibility upon him. How much more do I feel the weight of the responsibility of standing here as the representative of the Great God of the Universe and of all mankind in this great church of the living God?

"In prosecuting me, my accusers neglected to state that my teachings were against the peace, unity and purity of the church as interpreted by the Presbyterian church." (The inference was that while his views were at variance with the peace, unity and purity of the church, as interpreted by the Presbyterian church, his views and teachings were not at variance with the peace, unity and purity of the great church of Jesus Christ. At this juncture the prosecutor reminded Mr. Dodge that that paragraph of the indictment was merely a matter of form, as in the civil courts, indictments concluded with the phrase "against the peace and dignity of the State.")

The speaker then announced that his views and his teachings were the "Liberty of Conscience," and followed this with a statement of his views on the punishment of sin, the duration of the punishment, the opportunity for salvation beyond the grave. At various times the speaker quoted passages from the Presbyterian Confession of Faith, and followed them with quotations from the Bible, which, he stated, revealed the fallacies in the Confession of Faith.

After the speaker had progressed a considerable way into the exposition of his views of the Confession of Faith and certain Scriptural passages, a vigorous protest came from Dr. W. H. Frazer, to the effect that he did not propose to sit and listen to the

Confession of Faith put on trial. The prosecuting minister asked the speaker if his exegesis of the Scriptures were at variance with the Confession of Faith in any particular, and when Mr. Dodge informed him that it was, he objected to the speaker being permitted to continue his remarks along that line. Mr. Dodge spoke further, giving his conception of what the church is or was intended to be; his conception of God, and of various teachings of the Bible.

Deposed from Ministry.

There being no comments on the question from members of the Presbytery, the matter of passing upon the guilt or innocence of the accused was taken up, resulting in a unanimous vote that he stood guilty as indicted.

Dr. Frazer moved that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Dodge to see if he would not reconsider, the committee reporting later as stated.

Considerable time was consumed in the discussion of the nature of the punishment that should be inflicted. The Book of Church Order prescribes four forms of punishment in such cases, one being admonition, another definite suspension, the fourth and extreme penalty being deposition. When it was reported that Mr. Dodge was not amenable to a reconsideration of the stand he had taken, Rev. Mr. Waller, who had previously proposed deposition, called for a vote on his resolution, the measure being adopted with but two dissenting votes, these being cast by Rev. W. H. Mills and Rev. D. P. Junkin.

Will Be Heard Again.

It is understood that Rev. Mr. Dodge contemplates taking his case through all the channels prescribed by the rules of the Presbyterian church in such cases, thus availing himself of the opportunity to air his views in the highest of the Presbyterian tribunals.

The trial here was conducted along lines that gave evidence of a stern adherence to church discipline and law, yet bringing to the surface a marked degree of Christian and brotherly personal interest and forbearance. The earnest hope of the prosecution was that Rev. Mr. Dodge would "see the error of his way," forsake his present teachings, which are felt in many quarters to border upon and really embrace not a little of the teachings of Romanism; but he remained firm in his adherence to his views and his refusal to conform to the teachings of the Presbyterian church. In view of these facts he was deposed from the ministry of the Presbyterian church, the extreme penalty prescribed by his departure from its teachings.

Presbytery Adjourned

late Thursday night. The meeting was one of the most momentous in the history of Piedmont Presbytery. Much business of a routine nature was transacted, though the Dodge hearing occupied the major portion of the session.

Missionary Evangelist Chosen.

Rev. T. C. Croker, of Newberry county, pastor of Old Smyrna church, was chosen to serve Piedmont Presbytery in the capacity of missionary evangelist. Rev. Croker's present work is within the bounds of the South Carolina Presbytery, but it is felt that there is no doubt as to his release and transfer to Piedmont Presbytery for the taking up of this new and important work. The missionary evangelist will look after the interests of the churches in the country and will have an important part in the Sunday school work of the Presbytery. It is thought that his transfer will be consummated within a month. It is probable that the missionary evangelist will be located at Seneca as the most central point from which to conduct his labors.

Rev. J. B. Wallace and T. P. Anderson, of Westminster, and Dr. W. A. Sheldon, of Liberty, were elected to the board of trustees of Clinton College.

Dr. W. H. Frazer, of Anderson, and Elder M. A. Boggs, of Liberty, were elected as Commissioners to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, which will convene in Birmingham, Ala., in May.

Adjourned Meeting May 8th.

An adjourned meeting of Presbytery was fixed for Tuesday, May 8th. This meeting will be held at Seneca. The next regular meeting of Presbytery will be held with the Westminster church on the third Tuesday in September, the 18th.

Mr. Dodge at Home.
(Anderson Mail, 17th.)

Facing a large congregation of people that for its general complexity was unlike anything ever seen in Anderson, and under circumstances certainly the most unique attending any meeting of the kind the city has ever witnessed, an untried minister of the Presbyterian church—a man yet in his youth—representing no organized church, no creed, no sect, nor any institution of belief formulated by man, but representing, as he said, only the great church of the living God, yesterday afternoon uttered a plea for liberty of conscience and freedom of thought in serving the Father of all mankind that was pronounced by unbiased minds that heard it as a masterpiece.

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." The 29th verse, 5th chapter of the Acts, is the text from which Dr. Witherspoon Dodge, until last Thursday night pastor of the Central Presbyterian church of this city, deposed by action of his Presbytery following his conviction on charges of heresy, delivered his message to a congregation that filled the auditorium of the Christian church. Among those listening to the discourse were people from all Protestant denominations represented in the city, some who are members of no church at all nor adherents of any church creed, Gentile and Jew. There is no gainsaying the fact that some few came out of a

Save the Corn for Human Food.

"There are in the eleven Cotton States 6,500,000 horses and mules. If each of these were fed two pounds of cotton seed meal per day, as part of the daily ration, it would release four pounds of corn each day, and 200 days of such feeding to all horses and mules would release 100,000,000 bushels of corn for human food and the mules would be benefited by the change.

"Four pounds of corn at \$1.56 per bushel costs 11 cents. Two pounds of cotton seed meal at \$40 per ton costs 4 cents.

"The feeder would thus save 7 cents per day on each head of stock, or a saving of \$14 per mule in a period of \$200 days.

"We suggest that such feeding now, and the planting of soy or velvet beans or peas in all corn, as an economic and patriotic duty.

Signed: **DR. TAIT BUTLER**, (Memphis)
Editor Progressive Farmer, and Associate
Agriculturist, B. M. C. Farm Bureau.

Signed: **DR. E. R. LLOYD**,
Director Mississippi Experiment Station.

Signed: **DR. H. A. MORGAN**,
Director Tennessee Experiment Station.

Signed: **W. C. LASEITER**,
Director Arkansas Extension Forces.

Signed: **H. M. COTTRELL**,
Agriculturist, B. M. C. Farm Bureau,
Memphis, Tenn."

What would the answer be on \$2.00 per bushel for Corn?

You will notice the above is endorsed by the best authorities in the country, and we hope Oconee County will take this in now.

Westminster Oil and Fertilizer Co., WESTMINSTER, S. C. K. W. MARETT, Manager.

sense of curiosity, a truth which was realized and admitted by the speaker, but it is also a truth that a very great many came through the promptings of their own hearts.

Contrary to what a great many expected, no doubt, there was nothing pertaining to the spectacular about the speaker's deliverance. There was no suggestion of resentment nor the faintest evidence of bitterness toward any one or anything for his condition of a minister deposed from his high and holy calling. Rather his attitude was that of one who had gone through his Gethsemane, and, having the courage of his convictions, had drunk to the dregs his cup, the experience leaving him with a feeling which he characterized as indescribable.

"I appear before you this afternoon," he said, "feeling as I have never felt before. I cannot tell you how I feel. I am no longer a 'Reverend,' and I never shall be again. I am here just as a plain, ordinary, every-day sort of man. I will not characterize myself as a 'man of God,' for that phrase carries with it the suggestion of a higher and holier condition than I would lay claim to—but rather let me speak of myself as a 'man for God.' I stand here as the representative of no denomination, the champion of no man-made creed, the follower of no sect—but just as a Christian, as I see it."

Continuing briefly in this strain, the speaker declared that he was more convinced now than ever that denominationalism had run its course; that is, denominationalism that means sectarianism of the kind which proclaims "I am right and you are wrong."

"We are living in a world that is too big, too complex, too cosmopolitan and too intellectual," he said, "for any man or set of men to lay claim that they know all of the truth. We have got to preach less denominationalism and more Christianity if the church remains. We have got to

get away from narrowness. The fault with many of our creeds is not that they are old-fashioned, but they are not old-fashioned enough. Instead of dating our creeds back to the years of John Calvin, John Knox, Martin Luther, Wesley and the others, we have got to date them back to the year one, and found our ideals in Jesus Christ. We ought to obey God rather than men. The religion of to-day and the religion of the future has got to permit every soul to go to its God for its beliefs, rather than to our man-made creeds for which our churches stand."

In his introductory remarks Mr. Dodge stated that he would make reference to the recent experience through which he had passed at Walhalla because he realized that many of those sitting before him were interested. He stated that he had no plans at that time, but perhaps would have some the next day. He stated that the use of the Christian church had been very kindly tendered for this service, with the understanding, of course, that in so doing the church was maintaining a position of strict neutrality in the incident through which he had just passed. Mr. Dodge stated that he would continue to preach hereafter, perhaps in the Christian church, at times when the building was not in use, if the congregation extended him the courtesy.

In the congregation that filled the Christian church to its capacity were a large number of members of the Central Presbyterian church, among them being both officers and laymen. The speaker was given the closest attention throughout the discourse, and at the conclusion of the service scores of his hearers pressed forward to greet him.

500 Men Daily for Navy.
Washington, April 14.—The navy is gaining men at the rate of more than 500 a day. It was announced by the Navy Department to-day. The

County Farmers' Union.

The Oconee County Farmers' Union will meet with Coneross Local, at Coneross, on April 28th, at 11 o'clock a. m. All locals are requested not only to send full delegations, but all members are urged to come, as business of importance will be up for discussion. G. M. Barnett, county demonstration agent, and other popular speakers will address the meeting.

T. Y. Chalmers, President;
J. H. Garrison, Secretary.

Play at Ebenezer School.

There will be a play, "Mrs. Briggs of the Poultry Yard," given by the teachers and pupils of Ebenezer school next Friday night, April 20th, at 8:30 o'clock.

The cast of characters will be as follows:

Mrs. Briggs, a woman of business—Miss Addie L. Davis.
Ralph, Jimmy, Olivia and Melissa, her family—Arthur Tollison, Paul Hunt, Pearl Vaughn, Hazel Tollison, Silas Green, "a near relation"—Paul Elkin.

Mr. Lee, a wealthy neighbor—Oscar Tollison.
Virginia Lee, his daughter—Miss Sallie Hunt.

Daisy Thornton, her friend—Miss Della Tollison.
Mrs. O'Connor, with no liking for goats—Annie E. Cason.

Mandy Bates, whose tongue will stumble—Margaret S. Hill.
The public is invited to attend. Admission 10 and 15 cents. Proceeds to be used for the benefit of the school.

Addie L. Davis, Principal.

net gain since April 1 has been 4,871. For the last two days it was 535 and 556, respectively.

To make the increase even more rapid, officials are considering enlisting men for the period of the war, the policy already adopted by the army.

CUT FLOWERS.

	Per Doz.
Carnations\$1.00
Daffodils25
Hyacinths75
Tulips, extra75
Tulips, seconds50
Lilies 3.00

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CITATION NOTICE.

The State of South Carolina, County of Oconee.—(In Court of Probate)—By V. F. Martin, Judge of Probate.—Whereas, John F. Craig, C. C. P., has made suit to me to grant her Letters of Administration of the Estate of and Effects of Mrs. Vilena Rogers, deceased—

These are, therefore, to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Mrs. Vilena Rogers, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Walhalla Court House, South Carolina, on Tuesday, the 15th day of MAY, 1917, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand and seal this 31st day of March, A. D. 1915.
(Seal.) V. F. MARTIN,
Judge of Probate for Oconee County, South Carolina.

Published on the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th April and 2d, 9th days of May, 1917, in The Oconee Courier and on the Court House door for the time prescribed by law.

April 4, 1917. 14-19

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PREVENTS

Colds, LaGrippe, Rheumatism.

A pleasant but effective emulsion, which rebuilds the tissues, revives the system, adds strength and stimulates the nervous system. It has absolutely no alcohol, and is in every sense a tonic.

\$1.00 Per Bottle

Ask Your Druggist.

Manufactured Solely By
THE FERROL COMPANY
COLUMBIA, S. C.

To the Stock Raisers of Oconee County:

I offer the services of Registered Jersey Bull and Registered Duroc Jersey Boar. Come and see these animals.

W. Pat Dickson,
Route 4, - - Seneca, S. C.

Rainfall for Week.

Rainfall for week ending April 15th, at 7 p. m., is furnished us by H. W. Brandt, co-operative observer. The record follows:

Date—	Inches rainfall.
April 9—Clear09
April 10—Clear
April 11—Clear
April 12—Clear
April 13—Cloudy44
April 14—Clear
April 15—Clear
Total for week53

Closing Day at Earle's Grove.

The patrons and friends of Earle's Grove Graded School are requested and most cordially invited to be present at the closing day exercises to be held at the school building next Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

J. B. Compton, Principal.

YES! LIFT A CORN OFF WITHOUT PAIN!

Cincinnati Authority Tells How to Dry Up a Corn or Callus So It Lifts Off With Fingers.

You corn-pestered men and women need suffer no longer. Wear the shoes that nearly killed you before, says this Cincinnati authority, because a few drops of freezone applied directly on a tender, aching corn or callus, stops soreness at once and soon the corn or hardened callus loosens so it can be lifted out, root and all, without pain.

A small bottle of freezone costs very little at any drug store, but will positively take off every hard or soft corn or callus. This should be tried, as it is inexpensive and is said not to irritate the surrounding skin.

If your druggist hasn't any freezone tell him to get a small bottle for you from his wholesale drug house. It is fine stuff and acts like a charm every time.—Adv.